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**McLaughlin, James.** *My Friend the Indian*. Pp. xi, 416. Price, \$2.50. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1910.

All who are interested in that race of men which has been displaced by white men "in carrying out the immutable law of the survival of the fittest," in the development of American civilization, will welcome this book from the pen of James McLaughlin, who for thirty-eight years has lived among the red men of the Northwest, serving as Indian agent at the Devil's Lake and Standing Rock reservations from 1871 to 1895 and as United States Indian Inspector from 1895 to the present. Perhaps no other man has been instrumental in carrying through so many "treaties" and "agreements" with the Indians. To him also the government is indebted for much of the improvement in the conduct of Indian affairs.

The book is written chiefly in autobiographical style, which gives a vividness to his narrative which far surpasses that of the mere descriptive historian. The story is told largely from the Indian's point of view, especially such events as the annihilation of Custer's troops at the battle of the Little Big Horn, which he declares to have been "Not a massacre, but a battle."

The scant appreciation which the author has for the work of ethnologists who have studied tribal life among the Indians should not detract from the value of the ethnological and sociological material which he furnishes. His work abounds in interesting descriptions of Indian village life, social and religious customs, dances, family organization, etc. His frank criticism of the government in its treaty-breaking policy and its paternalism, and his plea for "giving the Red man his portion," will be read with great interest by all who seek the Indian's good. Perhaps the title, "My Friend the Sioux," would have been a little more appropriate for a volume dealing almost wholly with the Indians of the Dakotas.

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**Odum, H. W.** *Social and Mental Traits of the Negro*. Pp. 302. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1910.

Purporting to be based upon a special inquiry, this study is distinctly disappointing. In style it is rambling and verbose, with constant repetition. In few places is concrete evidence given, while chapter after chapter is couched in the general terms so characteristic of most discussions of the Negro. The author is capable of better work. Hailing from Mississippi, he is evidently very familiar with many phases of Negro life, is friendly in his attitude, and gives reason to hope that future studies will avoid the generalities so conspicuous in this study.

The schools, the church, fraternal orders, home life, crime, social status, relation of emotions to conduct make up the bulk of the volume, to which is added "An Estimate of the Negro" which is really a discussion of the economic situation.

Dr. Odum believes that the first thing is to understand the Negro. He

recognizes the responsibility of the whites. He sees that the schools have been unsatisfactory, that the white church should take more interest in the Negro; and he fears that the great development of lodges is interfering with the church. In the low standards of home life and personal conduct he finds constant challenge to normal progress. In the music of the Negro he finds much of promise.

The question is not whether the Negro is so handicapped by nature that he can never do the work of the white. It is rather to help bring about such conditions and ideals that at least the Negro may realign himself—the future will determine the issue. The author deserves praise for his avoidance of pessimism and his recognition that North and South must unite in constructive programs.

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**Welsford, J. W.** *The Strength of England.* Pp. xviii, 362. Price, \$1.75. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1910.

This is a sketch of the history of England, or so much of that history as the author lived to complete, written with the idea of bringing out some of the economic features of the story, and especially to prove the desirability of a policy of protection to home industry and trade. Of this kind of writing it is a favorable example. It is the result of much reading, thought, and care in statement. It includes many suggestive explanations and comments. But there is a fundamental difficulty with this whole form of treatment of history. As far as it is work in history it is one-sided, arbitrary and inadequate. Historical consequences have flowed from the whole body of historical conditions not from one particular group of them. So Mr. Welsford has not only left out whole fields of historical occurrences, but has been led into making many entirely improbable and certainly quite unsupported historical assertions, besides a rather large body of minor misstatements.

As far as such a work is an argument for protection as a practical present-day policy, the vast number and variety of occurrences in the life of a nation through many centuries of time, provide an embarrassing abundance of material. By a selection of events and a series of statements and explanations quite as justifiable and sound as those of the author of this book, a free-trader could make a politico-economic history of England that would interpret it in exactly the opposite way and teach free-trade instead of protection. Work must be much more critical, thorough, accurate and profound than such a sketchy outline of a large subject as this before it can have any very serious value.

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